

**Sister Edward Catherine Barrett, OSF, Eulogy,
September 17, 2022, St. Elizabeth Motherhouse**

On behalf of Sister Edward Catherine's family, we are grateful to gather here with Sister's Community to celebrate Sister's life of service and charity. I am (also) Catherine, Sister Edward's sister Elizabeth's daughter. We join you today: nieces, nephew, in-laws, and grand nieces and nephews. All touched and inspired by Sister Edward's faith, resilience, service, eternal generosity and, always, humor.

Sister Edward was born Theresa Elizabeth Barrett in South Buffalo, New York. Sister came to this community at the age of 19; Sister's mother, then Catherine Howard, studied here in high school and loved the community and the breathtaking surroundings that we are all enjoying today. When then Theresa told her Mother that she had a vocation, our grandmother guided Sister Edward to serve with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

Sister's maternal grandmother, Bridget Lenan Howard, a widow from County Clare, Ireland, lived with Sister's family as she grew up. Sister very fondly shared the story of her parents' courtship. When Sister's Mother, Catherine, left the Allegany Community following high school, she moved to Buffalo, New York, and found work for the telephone company. Catherine met Edward Barrett and Catherine agreed to marry Edward IF her widowed Mother could live with them. Sister very warmly would share the story of her Dad driving to Bradford, Pennsylvania, inviting Bridget to come and live with them. There were light stories of Edward asking Bridget to PLEASE teach Catherine to cook!

Sister was Edward's and Catherine's fourth of seven children. Mary, Eddie, Betty, Theresa, John, Kay and Mike. Sister, Mom, Aunt Kay, Aunt Mary, told many stories of life on the prairie that we know is South Buffalo. Apparently, and this must have been the golden age before things like factory potato chips, as children they would start a fire in a field and roast potatoes while they played during endless summer days. Along with the stories of a wholesome, secure childhood with a Mother and Dad, Grandmother living in the house. Another Grandmother and Grandfather lived close by, also from Ireland. Together the Barrett family had a large, supportive and joyful family.

During Sister's youth, Sister was particularly prayerful. Sister would wake early, attend Mass, stop in Church at any opportunity, and pray. I believe that then and now, Sister's prayers provide our family grace.

Sister Edward completed high school at Mount Mercy Academy in South Buffalo. Following high school Sister worked briefly for the railroad where my Mother worked. Mom would say, after Sister Edward left the job at the railroad, "C'mon fellas, watch your language, my Sister worked here for a couple of weeks and joined the Convent!"

Sister thoroughly enjoyed her years teaching seventh and eighth grade; I am certain the students never forgot Sister's commitment to their education, Sister's optimism to the youths' future, to their spiritual development, and to games of kickball that Sister played with the students. I suspect that all or at least most of Sister's former students remember to pray and find great comfort in prayer.

We all have so many deep and personal stories of Sister Edward. We all remember, as do Sister's students, a rousing game of touch football where it might end up with a tackle or two. Our cousin Kevin Guyette was thrilled that Sister gave him a brief case when he graduated Law School and he uses that brief case today. My children have personalized Bibles from Sister Edward. Sister was always very generous. Of course, these are things of this world. Sister, much more importantly, emphasized prayer and the comfort and joy of knowing God's love. Sister's instruction and inspiration will stay with us and we are blessed to believe that Sister is in Heaven with her Mother and Dad. Thank you.